Appointment of Judges in High Courts from District Judiciary

1110. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government give due consideration to the members of district judiciary of the State while making appointment of the Judges of the High Court in that State;

(b) if so, what is the number of Judges of the High Courts appointed through bar and judiciary separately in different States during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Members of bar are preferred in the appointment of Judges of the High Court as compared to members of district judiciary;

(d) if so, whether Government plan to give a fair deal to the members of district judiciary in the appointment of High Court Judges; and

(e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative; what are the reasons for small number of High Court Judges from District Judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last 3 years, 71 persons from the Bar and 73 from the Judicial service have been appointed in different High Courts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The number of High Court Judges from the District Judiciary is not small.

Issue of identity cards in border areas

1111. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any scheme for issue of identity cards to the inhabitants of border areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of such scheme;

(c) whether this scheme has been successful in checking clendestine inflow of foreigners into India;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to check the clendestine inflow of foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) A Pilot Scheme for issue of identity cards to persons living in selected border areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab has been taken up, While in Rajasthan and Gujarat, it is under implementation, in Punjab it is only in the initial stages. The scheme is centrally funded. 90 per cent of the expenditure is given as grant and 10 per cent as loan to the State Government.

(c) to (e) The efficacy of the scheme will be known only after its full implementation and evaluation.

"Projects pending clearance from Madhya Pradesh"

1112. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects in Madhya Pradesh are pending and are being delayed for want of "Environmental Clearance";

(b) if so, what are the details of such projects; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to expedite the "Environmental Clearance" to such projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The list of development pro-